

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04044 171753Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SSO-00 SY-05 OPR-02 SCCT-01 USSS-00 A-01

OC-05 CCO-00 AID-05 AF-06 OMB-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3453

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4044

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: RC MEETS; POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

SUMMARY: RC HAS DISSOLVED COALITION GOVERNMENT AND ANNOUNCED THAT NEW NON-PARTY MILITARY-CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED. AFM ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JULY 18 HAS BEEN POSTPONED FOR ONE WEEK. MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN FAR LEFT ORCHESTRATED RALLY IN LISBON JULY 17 AND COPCON'S EQUIVOCAL RESPONSE RE WHETHER PARTICIPATION WAS AUTHORIZED WILL CONTRIBUTE TO "WHO'S IN CHARGE" SPECULATION. PPD WILL HOLD DEMONSTRATION IN OPORTO JULY 17. RIVAL DEMONSTRATIONS THERE FOLLOWING NIGHT, INCLUDING ONE BY PS, COULD LEAD TO PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION. END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 LISBON 04044 171753Z

1. RC ANNOUNCED JULY 17 THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED FOLLOWING DECISION BY PPD TO LEAVE COALITION. DECISION ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING TYPICAL ALL-NIGHT RC SESSION. ELABORATING ON TERSE RC STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING, RC SPOKESMAN VASCO LOURENCO SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD FORM NEW GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MEMBERS; IT WOULD NOT HOWEVER BE A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING LOURENCO, PRIME MINISTER WILL DECIDE WHETHER PORTFOLIOS TO BE FILLED WILL BE ONLY THOSE LEFT VACANT BY DEPARTURE OF PPD AND PS. MEMBERS WILL SERVE AS INDIVIDUALS, NOT PARTY REPRESENTATIVES.

2. RC ALSO TOOK FOLLOWING ACTION:
-- ENDORSED "CORRECT CONDUCT" OF PORTUGUESE FORCES IN ANGOLA;
-- APPROVED DECREE-LAW PROVIDING FOR TRIAL OF FORMER DGS AGENTS BY MILITARY TRIBUNAL;
-- POSTPONED FOR ONE WEEK AFM ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JULY 18;
-- APPROVED FORMATION OF GOVERNING GROUP FOR AZORES HEADED BY CURRENT MILITARY GOVERNOR ALTINO DE MAGALHAES.

3. MILITARY JOIN FAR-LEFT DEMONSTRATION: ELEMENTS OF LEFT-LEANING RALIS LIGHT ARTILLERY UNIT -- INCLUDING ITS COMMANDER, MAJOR DENIS DE ALMEIDA -- PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN FAR-LEFT ORCHESTRATED DEMONSTRATION IN LISBON ON JULY 17. RALLY OSTENSIBLY ORGANIZED BY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS AND WORKERS' COMMISSIONS BUT PRIME MOVERS WERE COTERIE OF FAR LEFT GROUPS INCLUDING UDP, LCI, PRT, AND LUAR. PARTICIPANTS NUMBERED LESS THAN 500 ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTED "THOUSANDS." SLOGANS AND SPEAKERS AT RALLY DENOUNCED THREE MODERATE PARTIES (PS, PPD AND CDS), CALLED FOR DICTATORSHIP OF PROLETARIAT, AND DEMANDED IMMEDIATE DISSOLUTION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. COPCON HAS ISSUED CONFLICTING STATEMENTS REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF MILITARY MEN IN DEMONSTRATION. COPCON OFFICIAL FIRST STATED THAT PARTICIPATION HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY COPCON COMMANDER GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, BUT LATER SAID THAT MILITARY MEN PARTICIPATED ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE.

4. MORE DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED: PPD WILL HOLD RALLY IN OPORTO EVENING JULY 17 IN SUPPORT OF DECISION TO LEAVE GOVERNMENT. SOCIALISTS PLAN ANOTHER IN THEIR SERIES
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PAGE 03 LISBON 04044 171753Z

OF MOBILIZATION RALLIES IN BRAGA SAME EVENING. RIVAL DEMONSTRATIONS ARE SCHEDULED IN OPORTO FOLLOWING EVENING JULY 18 BY SOCIALISTS, ON ONE HAND, AND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS AND WORKERS' COMMISSIONS ON OTHER. NORTHERN DIRECTORATE OF PCP HAS ISSUED STATEMENT ATTACKING PS MOBILIZATION PLANS AND PLEDGING ITSELF TO RESIST "NEW WAVE OR REACTION." INTERSINDICAL HAS CALLED IN OFFICIALS OF AFFILIATED UNIONS IN OPORTO TO ISSUE "INSTRUCTIONS" AS TO APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

5. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER WILL LIKELY HAVE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING ANY QUALITY NON-COMMUNISTS WILLING TO SERVE IN NEW GOVERNMENT. SOARES IS ALREADY ON RECORD AS STATING THAT NO PS MEMBER WILL SERVE IN GOVERNMENT WHILE PS-AFM DIFFERENCES REMAIN UNRESOLVED. PPD IS LIKELY TO ADOPT SIMILAR POSITION. DECISION TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS YET ANOTHER INCREMENTAL STEP IN STEADY MOVE TO LEFT. BIG QUESTION ("WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO PM GONCALVES?") REMAINS UNANSWERED. IF MODERATES INDEED MADE MOVE TO OUST GONCALVES AT COUNCIL MEETING, NO HINT OF STRUGGLE HAS YET EMERGED.

6. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY MILITARY UNITS IN LISBON DEMONSTRATION IS OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT. GIVEN TRANSPARANT NATURE OF FAR LEFT SPONSORSHIP OF RALLY, COPCON'S EQUIVOCAL RESPONSE RE MILITARY PARTICIPTION WILL GIVE RISE TO MORE SPECULATION RE WHO'S IN CHARGE? MORE OMINOUS STILL IS POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE IMPLICIT IN RIVAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN OPORTO JULY 18. CARLUCCI

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